

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 25-26 and 39-40 were rejected as being anticipated by Konig (German Patent Document 19700330). Claims 1-4, 25-28, 39-45 and 49 were rejected as being anticipated by Sells et al. (U.S. Patent 6,868,975). Claims 4-6, 9-10, 27-35, 41-45 and 47-49 were rejected as being unpatentable over Konig in view of Sells et al. Claims 7, 8 and 46 were rejected as being unpatentable over Konig and Sells et al. and further in view of Lavin et al. (U.S. Patent 3,495,717). Claims 11 and 12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Konig and Sells et al. and further in view of Bentley (U.S. Patent 5,271,174). Claims 13, 36-38 and 50 were rejected as being unpatentable over Konig in view of Fildes (U.S. Patent 1,811,31).

The Examiner objected to the drawings based on a perceived inconsistency between that shown in FIGS. 1 and 13 and the associated text. Applicant's attorney has carefully reviewed the drawings and the specification, and agrees that the Examiner's objection is well founded. Accordingly, a Replacement Sheet containing revised FIGS. 13 and 14 is submitted herewith, and approval is respectfully requested. The Examiner's careful review of the specification and drawings is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner also objected to the specification for an improper incorporation by reference. Accordingly, the application has been amended herein to remove the incorporation by reference statement previously contained in the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 18 of the specification.

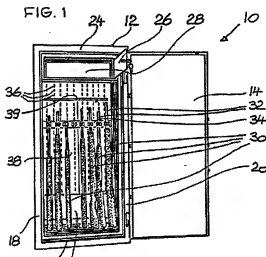
Applicant has also amended claims 5 and 13 address the objections raised thereto. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claim 8 to replace the phrase "the support member" in line 5 of the claim with "the mounting member".

Claims 1, 25, and 39 stand rejected as being anticipated by Konig. In response, claims 1, 25 and 39 have been amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the cited prior art.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to state that the door arrangement includes a pair of folding door sections. Claim 1 is also amended to state that the folding

door sections are movable to a retracted position within the interior of the cabinet when the door arrangement is in the open position.

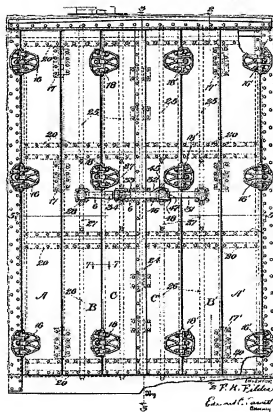
As best shown in Fig. 1 (reproduced below), König teaches a gun cabinet having a single door mounted to an edge of the cabinet by a set of hinges. The single door is carried by the hinges such that the door can be swung to an open position, as shown in the figure, or swung to a closed position. When in the open position, the door is swung away from the interior of the cabinet and is thus external to the interior of the cabinet. Moreover, the door is in the form of a single planar member that is not disclosed or shown as being foldable. In this regard, the door does not include a pair of folding door sections as specified in amended claim 1, which are movable to a retracted position within the interior of the cabinet when the door arrangement is in the open position, as also set forth in amended claim 1.



For the above reasons, Konig fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

Additionally, it is noted that the combination of Konig and Fildes fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. In this regard, it is noted that amended claim 1 states that the door arrangement is movable to a retracted position within the interior of the cabinet when the door arrangement is in the open position. While Fildes discloses a cabinet door that is split into multiple folding sections, Fildes neither teaches

nor suggests retraction of the folding sections into the interior of the cabinet, as claimed. As shown in the figure reproduced below, Fildes discloses two doors, each split into folding sections, which are hingedly connected to the cabinet. When the doors are opened, the folding sections fold together, but extend outwardly of the interior of the cabinet.



Specifically, and with reference to the figure above, Fildes describes the door as “composed of two leaves respectively swung on hinges 16 and 16’ at the opposite sides of the door opening.” (Col. 2, lines 66-70) Fildes further states:

These two leaves each consist of three sections designated A, B, C; A’, B’, C’, the sections of a leaf being hinged together in such manner that they may be folded upon one another. Thus section B is connected to section A by hinges 17 which permit B to be swung inwardly with respect to A; and section C is connected to section B by hinges 18 which permit C to be swung outwardly with respect to B. Section A’, B’ and C’ are similarly connected by hinges 17’ and 18’. Obviously in opening the door the two

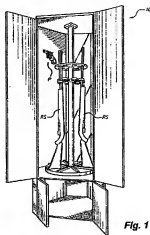
central sections C and C' may be first be swung outwardly on hinges 18 and 18' to bring their outer faces against the outer faces of sections B and B', whereupon sections B and B' may be folded against sections A and A', respectively, as the latter are swung about the hinges 16 and 16'. Hence with this construction there will be required for opening the door a clearance at the side of the container only a little greater than the width of single section of the door.

(Col. 2, lines 70-93)

Thus, Fildes teaches that folded sections swing out against hinges 16 and 16' respectively rather than retracting into an interior of the cabinet, as claimed. As such, Fildes singly or in combination with Konig fails to teach or suggest that recited in claims 1, 25, and 39.

The present invention as set forth in amended claim 1 provides a cabinet construction in which the door arrangement can be moved completely out of the way when opened. In this manner, the user does not have to move around the door when the user desires to gain access to the items, such as fire arms, that are contained within the interior of the cabinet. Furthermore, this feature is important when the cabinet of the present invention is used in tight spaces, which is often the case in a military application. The folding, retractable construction of the door arrangement allows the cabinets to be positioned with relatively narrow aisles between adjacent rows of cabinets, while allowing full, direct access to the interior of each cabinet when the door arrangement is opened.

Claims 1, 4, 25, 27, 28, and 39 also stand rejected as being anticipated by Sells et al. Unlike Konig, Sells et al. teaches a gun cabinet having a door arrangement comprised of a pair of door sections, as shown in the figure reproduced below. However, similar to the construction disclosed by Konig, the door sections are hinged to edges of the gun cabinet and are moved between open and closed positions by swinging the respective door sections by their respective hinged connections. In this regard, Sells et al. fails to teach a pair of folding door sections as specified in amended claim 1, which are movable to a retracted position within the interior of the cabinet when the door arrangement is in the open position, as also set forth in amended claim 1.



For the above reasons, Sells et al. fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1, and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

It should also be noted that the combination of Sells et al. and Fildes fails to teach or suggest that recited in claims 1 and 25. As noted above, Fildes fails to teach or suggest the door arrangement as specified in amended claim 1. Specifically, as discussed above, Fildes teaches a door arrangement in which doors extend outwardly of the interior of a cabinet when in the open position, rather than retracted within the interior of the cabinet when in an open position, as claimed. Thus, even assuming the requisite motivation to combine the references, the combination fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the references do not show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1, and that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-13 depended directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are deemed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Independent claims 25 and 39 have been amended on the same lines as claim 1. For the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, it is thus believed that claims 25 and 39 also patentably define over the references, and are allowable along with respective dependent claims 26, 27, 30-32 and 34, and 40, 41 and 44-46.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 1-13, 25-27, 30-32, 34, 39-41 and 44-46, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. McConnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "McConnell" clearly distinguishable.

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Dated: 10/22/07

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